

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 NSF-01 /085 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8323

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FOR OES

PASS ERDA AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, UK

SUBJ: NEW UK STRATEGY FOR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DR. WALTER B. MARSHALL, CHIEF SCIENTIST OF UK DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, TESTIFYING ON FEBRUARY 12 TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF HOUSE OF COMMONS, INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT YET READY TO PUT FORWARD HIS CONSIDERED STRATEGY FOR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. DR. MARSHALL, WHO ALSO SERVES AS DIRECTOR OF AERE, HARWELL, THE CENTRAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY, WAS APPOINTED CHIEF SCIENTIST TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IN JULY 1974.

2. MARSHALL SPOKE AT A HEARING OF ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; SEVEN MPS WERE PRESENT AND CHAIRMAN WAS ARTHUR PALMER, A
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FREQUENT LABOR PARTY SPOKESMAN ON ENERGY MATTERS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS. RECENTLY SUBCOMMITTEE HAS HELD

WEEKLY MEETINGS AT WHICH FOLLOWING GROUPS HAVE TESTIFIED.

JAN. 22 - COUNCIL FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION, CHAIRMAN SIR WILLIAM HAWTHORNE

JAN. 29 - DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SIR IEUAN MADDOCK, CHIEF SCIENTIST, DOI

FEB. 5 - NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL FUEL EFFICIENCY SERVICE (A PRIVATE CONSULTING ORGANIZATION)

FEB. 12 - ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, CHAIRMAN DR. W. MARSHALL

3. IN FIRST THREE DAYS OF HEARINGS, ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED MAINLY UPON POSSIBLE CONSERVATION MEASURES. HAWTHORNE COMMITTEE HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED A USEFUL QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SUBJECT ENTITLED "ENERGY CONSERVATION IN THE UK." IN BROAD TERMS, THIS REPORT DELINEATES THOSE AREAS IN WHICH CONSERVATION EFFORTS COULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE.

4. MADDOCK'S TESTIMONY WAS MAINLY CONCERNED WITH ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANICS BY WHICH DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY CAN ACHIEVE LOWER ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. HE POINTED OUT THAT EFFORTS WERE UNDERWAY THROUGH FOUR MAJOR DIVISIONS OF INDUSTRY WITHIN DOI, THROUGH REGIONAL OFFICES, THROUGH RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS BOARDS AND THROUGH RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS. HE FELT THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE A "GENTLE INTRUDER." LABOR MPS ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR A MORE AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE BY DOI.

5. ON FEB. 12, MARSHALL TOLD SUBCOMMITTEE THAT HE WOULD RELY HEAVILY UPON THE ADVICE OF ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. ACORD WAS ORIGINALLY SET UP TO ADVISE GOVERNMENT ON R&D PROGRAMS OF VARIOUS NATIONALIZED ENERGY INDUSTRIES, I.E., ELECTRICITY, GAS AND COAL. THE COMMITTEE'S ROLE IS NOW BEING EXPANDED TO COVER ALL ENERGY R&D IN UK, INCLUDING THAT OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

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6. MARSHALL HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED AN ENERGY "THINK TANK" AT HARWELL, THE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT UNIT, WITH A PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF ABOUT 10 PEOPLE.

7. ASKED TO DEFINE ENERGY STRATEGY OF HIS DEPARTMENT, MARSHALL SAID THAT HE THOUGHT FOUR MAJOR COMPONENTS WERE OBVIOUS, NAMELY, TO INCREASE COAL OUTPUT, TO GET NORTH SEA OIL ASHORE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, TO EXPAND THE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM AND TO LAUNCH A MAJOR

CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN ALL CONSUMING SECTORS. HE ADDED THAT AS FAR AS ROLE OF R&D WAS CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO NEW ENERGY SOURCES, THIS COULD ONLY BE EFFECTIVE ON A FAIRLY LONG TIME SCALE OF 10-20 YEARS,

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AT LEAST, AND THEREFORE BORE LITTLE RELATIONSHIP TO THE SHORT TERM ENERGY STRATEGY.

8. MR. CUNNINGHAM, MP, ASKED MARSHALL IF HE HAD DEVELOPED AN OVERALL STRATEGY FOR ENERGY R&D. MARSHALL SAID THAT HE DID NOT YET HAVE SUCH A STRATEGY, BUT EXPECTED TO HAVE ONE IN A FEW MONTHS. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO DRAW A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN THOUGHT AND ACTION.

9. MR. WARREN, MP, STATED THAT THE EEC HAD RECENTLY ISSUED A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION IN ENERGY R&D IN EUROPE AND HE WONDERED WHY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROGRAM WAS APPARENTLY DELAYED RELATIVE TO THAT OF EEC. MARSHALL SAID THAT AS FAR AS THE EEC RECOMMENDA-

TION WAS CONCERNED, A GREAT DEAL OF ANALYTICAL WORK
WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE TO JUSTIFY SOME OF THE PROPOSED
R&D WORK AND HE DID NOT THINK THAT EEC HAD DONE THIS
WORK. HE BELIEVED THE UK SHOULD HAVE MORE DETAILED
ANALYSES AS A FOUNDATION FOR ITS ENERGY R&D PROGRAM.
HE ALSO FELT THAT THERE WAS A DANGER OF OVERLAP BETWEEN
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VARIOUS NATIONAL PROGRAMS IN EUROPE, ALTHOUGH CCMS
HAD DONE SOME GOOD WORK TO AVOID THIS. HE WAS ASKED
TO DEFINE CCMS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMITTEE. END
UNCLASSIFIED.

10. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT. IN EARLIER
CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, MARSHALL STATED THAT IN HIS
OPINION, INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS IN TECHNOLOGICAL
VENTURES WITH ESSENTIALLY COMMERCIAL OBJECTIVES (I.E.,
CONCORDE, DRAGON, ISPRA) WERE FOREDOOMED TO FAILURE,
SIMPLY BECAUSE AT PRESENT THERE IS A LACK OF UNDER-
STANDING OF HOW TO BRING THOSE PROJECTS TO COMMERCIAL
REALITY. WITH THIS VIEWPOINT, IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT
MARSHALL WILL ATTEMPT TO AVOID STRONG UK INVOLVEMENT WITH
OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN ENERGY R&D UNLESS PROSPECTIVE
COMMERCIAL APPLICATION IS CLEARLY DEFINED AND REALISTIC.
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